



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2016

RI Department of Labor & Training

1511 Pontiac Ave, Cranston, RI

8:00 – 9:30 am

ATTENDANCE

Board Members (*Denotes not present)

Suzanna Alba*, Mario Bueno, Timothy Byrne, Channavy, Chhay, Robin Coia*, Monica Dzialo, Constance A. Howes, *Chair*, John Gregory, Mike Grey*, Stefan Pryor, *Vice Chair**, Scott Jensen, Steve Kitchin, Paul MacDonald, Cheryl Merchant*, George Nee, Janet Raymond, Nina Pande, Susan Rittscher, Bahjat Shariff *, Martin Trueb, Ken Wagner*

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Paul Genovesi, Kristen McKenna, Amelia Roberts.

DLT Staff: Joseph Agresti, Sue Chomka, Diane Gagne, Robert Kalaskowski, Sean Fontes, Michael Martins, Nancy Olson, Sarah Blusiewicz.

Guests: Alexis Stern, UWRI, Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Ruth Gobeille, Polaris MEP, Philip Less, RIDE; Katuska Perez, Senate Policy Office, Jill Holloway, PDC, Richard Palmiere, Doug Tingle, Cheryl DeCosta, Tech Collective, Stephen Osborn, RIDE, Tim Harrigan, Sarah Gagnon, Nursing Placement, Felica Brown, RIDE, Bernice Morris, Crossroads RI, Eseosa Uyi, CNA Graduate,

Call to Order

Chair Constance Howes called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

VOTE: Paul MacDonald moved to approve, seconded by George Nee. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes noted the GWB Annual meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick RI. The Keynote Speaker will be Donald Kettl. Donald teaches at the University of Maryland. He is a professor in the School of Public Policy as well as a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Donald's research interests include public policy and public management, and he specializes in the management of public organizations.

Executive Director's Report

- Chair Howes asked Executive Director Rick Brooks to provide an update on GWB Programs. Rick noted the Governor's Workforce Board Program Update Report created by Amelia Roberts, *GWB Assistant Coordinator of Employment & Training Programs*.
- 86 Businesses received an Incumbent Worker Training Grant , Since July 1, 2015
- \$1.7M has been allocated and to date \$1,022,537 million awarded.

- Workforce Innovation Grants had the highest total of employer partners with 102. There are 924 total participants, and 593 in job placements. \$2.38M has been awarded to date and the GWB has spent \$1.8M.
- Youth Development, Summer Youth \$2M was awarded to date and the GWB has spent \$1.8M.
- Work Immersion, 65 Businesses served, and 10 College Partners.
- Unemployed Adults, 61 Businesses served, 15 Pre-employment service Partners.
- CTE Students, 46 Businesses served, 16 CTE school partners.
- Adult Education will see increased funding under WIOA.
- GED testing scores data file will be available for the 4th quarter.
- Financial update through February 10, 2016: FY 2017 allocation was approved at last Board meeting, estimated revenue availability is \$19M, \$16M obligated by Board, grants expenses \$6M and \$457,817 projected carry-in.
- Currently the RI Department of Labor & Training has received several grant opportunities.
 - Strengthening working families \$4M
 - Summer jobs & beyond: Local Workforce Board, March 25, 2016, \$2M for 2 years.
 - LEAP creating specialized One Stop Services in Prison \$500,000 for 2 years, working proposal due next week.
 - Senedia working with RI Department of Labor and Training applies for Tech Hire grant: \$2-5M available for field of Technology, IT Tech Collective, Due March 11, 2016.
 - Scott Jensen noted future collaboration with Byron Auguste, Managing Director for Opportunity at Work.
 - There is a NEG grant in the department.

Committee Chairs' Reports

Youth Development

Chair Howes asked Nina Pande to provide on update.

- Nina highlighted the USDOL Grant Opportunity; \$2M dollar grant will be awarded to few LWIB around the country
- Provide recruitment and case management by local youth centers, begin in March or April 2016 and end in two years
- Suggested programs are: Culinary program in Newport and Providence, IT Microsoft office in Woonsocket, Construction in Chariho.
- Real Jobs can fit in USDOL Model.
- Grant writing needs to be looked at, along with reporting out data.
- Additionally, the new initiative will dovetail well with our current initiative to partner with CTE's schools in Providence, Newport, Woonsocket, and Chariho to provide after-school trainings for out of school youth ages 17 to 24 for this initiative

Executive Committee

Chair Howes provided an update.

- ETPL list: reporting data will hold our providers accountable and we will look at implementing standards over the next 2 years
- Governor's lean government initiative in the One Stop: 38 specific ideas for improvement have been suggested, customer service aspect is important.

WIOA Planning update:

Chair Howes asked Sarah Blusiewicz, Senior Advisor to the DLT Director to provide an update. Sarah noted.

- WIOA Deadline 4/1/16 needs to be met then there will be time to focus on program specific work.
- Working on DRAFT for public comments before the next GWB Board meeting

Recommendations #1:

- Priority to use this opportunity of WIOA combined planning to build on the work of the JDF funds training opportunities.

Recommendation #2

- Support the client customer center approach
- Big concern for WIOA is to expand customer service.
- Clients would like us to be more one-on-one with them

Recommendations #3

- Performance Management, look to go beyond Federal Government requirements
- Holding stakeholder's meetings to look at RI state workforce system to coordinate WIOA
- with lots of volunteer to help shape recommendations and making sure we include the LWIB's
 - o Nancy Olson, point of contact for Workforce Partnership Greater RI Board
 - o Jim Glover point of contact , Providence / Cranston Board
- Mike Grey asked, *will WIOA require you to cross agency "boarders"?* Sarah noted yes and responded *"no one can do it alone. We have to do this together."*

Workforce Innovation Grant Presentation: Crossroads RI and Nursing Placement

Chair Howes asked Bernice Morris, Director of Education & Employment Services at Crossroads to provide an update to the Board. The Mission of Crossroads RI is to help the homeless or at-risk individuals and families secure stable homes. They achieve this by engaging in our range of services including housing, basic needs, shelter, case management, referrals, education and employment services. Bernice provided program highlights:

- They served 400 people a year, 40 served by the GWB Innovative Partnership grant.
- 7 week Certified Nursing Assistant job training program including: Patient Health & Safety, First Aid & CPR Certification, Resume Preparation & Interviewing Skills,
- 22 Hour Clinical experience at Elmwood Nursing Center
- In 2015, 7 training session offered, 76 participants trained, 72 took exam, 53 passed both written and skills part of test
- Graduates consistently scored above the state average on the state license exam with a 90% pass rate.
- Individual job placement assistance, access to CNA Career Day with local employers
- 53 entered employment, 80% job placement.

RIDE Presentation: The Rhode Island Experience

Chair Howes asked Stephen Osborn, Chief of the Division of Accelerating School Performance to provide an update to the Board. Stephen pointed out program highlights:

- 5 year strategic planning process completed last year.
- The numbers show us we see growth since 2009 We see growth in the promising practices of work experiences, individualized plans and strategies that lead students on a pathways and academies
- In a regional comparison; 2014 graduation rate was 80.7% for RI, Massachusetts at 86.1% with Maine at 86.5%. SAT rates show only Maine below RI. But that is because every student is required to take SAT. These numbers included reflect all students, attending both private and public school.
- RI students consistently need remediation at CCRI, 3/4 high school student need developmental education and many leave CCRI before completing a degree.
- The current graduation requirements over the next 4 years will require a Performance based Assessment and Coursework to graduate.

- In 2021: In addition to current requirements, Students will need to have the literacy and numeracy skills to succeed in a personalized pathway.
- Other Considerations for a future diploma, initiating the concept of endorsements and we are looking at other states that has done this.
- We will be holding 20-25 meetings with stakeholders groups.
- Next Steps: 2 hour Town Hall meetings which include, teachers, superintendents
- Town Hall meetings will be held from February 23, 2016 on.

Finally, Stephen presented the discussion questions RIDE would like further feedback on in the meeting and future town hall discussions.

1. What does the Rhode Island diploma currently signal about a student's skills, knowledge, and readiness for employment? What do you hope it will signal in the future?
2. What experiences, skills, and knowledge are critical to a Rhode Island graduate's success in a future career?
3. How could the concept of an endorsement be valuable to you as an employer?

Questions to Stephen:

Janet Raymond: What has been the outreach for the Business Community?

Stephen noted we need to connect with employers and one way may be to reach out to the CTE Boards and through this process.

Mario Bueno stated that students with disabilities and language barriers should not be forgotten.

Stephen agreed and hopefully all the stakeholder meetings will provide valuable information for any areas of concern.

Monica Dzialo thanked Stephen for his great presentation and asked him to present at the next Career Pathways meeting on March 11th.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Howes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Martin Trueb moved to approve, seconded by Scott Jensen. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown